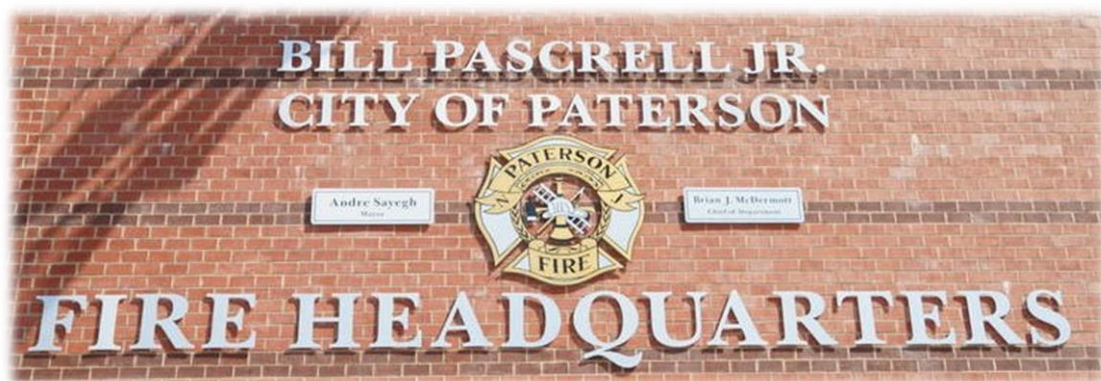


Fire Station Construction Grants Act

Introduced by Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr.

The Problem

In 2019, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) released a report on the [Renovations Needs of the U.S. Fire Service](#). This report showed that 43 percent of the surveyed fire departments are more than 40 years old. In many cases, they are not equipped with cancer-preventing exhaust emissions control systems. Approximately a third of the surveyed firehouses did not have access to backup power. In addition, these stations may be affected by mold, old ventilation systems and other environmental problems, and they may not have crew quarters for female fire and EMS personnel. Due to budget cuts and lack of federal grant funding, fire departments are unable to upgrade or replace their fire stations to meet modern codes and standards.



Above: The Bill Pascrell, Jr. Fire Headquarters in Paterson, NJ was built with a \$4.5 million federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Fire Station Construction Grant that Rep. Pascrell helped secure in 2010

The Solution

The bipartisan *Fire Station Construction Grants Act* would authorize \$1 billion in fire station construction grants administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for modifying, upgrading, and building fire and EMS department facilities, including local fire and EMS stations and fire training facilities. Specifically, grant funding can be used to:

- Build, rebuild, or renovate fire and EMS department facilities.
- Upgrade existing facilities to install exhaust emission control systems; install backup power systems; upgrade or replace environmental control systems, such as HVAC systems; remove or remediate mold; and construct or modify living quarters for use by male and female personnel.
- Upgrade fire and EMS stations or build new stations to meet modern building codes and standards as set by the National Fire Protection Association and International Code Council.

The legislation requires that FEMA allocate 25% of the grants for career fire and EMS departments, 25% of the grants for combination fire and EMS departments, and 25% of the grants for volunteer fire and EMS departments. The remaining 25% would be open to competition between the various department types. Grantees must meet prevailing wage and labor standards requirements under the *Davis-Bacon Act*, and procurement requirements under the *Buy American Act*. Grant awards are limited to \$7.5 million per project.

The legislation has been endorsed by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI).